

Remarks/Arguments:

Figures 2 and 6 were objected to. Figures 2 and 6 have been appropriately amended.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the above-identified application. New claims 12-15 have been added.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Bracamonte et al. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below. Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... an approximate-expression table including a plurality of sample data sizes and a plurality of approximate expressions **which correspond to said plurality of sample data sizes**, respectively ...

... an approximate-expression selector for **selecting an approximate expression from said plurality of approximate expressions...** (Emphasis added).

Applicants' exemplary embodiment discloses an approximate-expression table that includes a plurality of approximate expressions, each corresponding to a respective sample size. (Fig. 4). For example, approximate expression 1 corresponds to a sample data size of 58325. Approximate expression 8 corresponds to a sample data size of 145435. That is, Applicants' exemplary embodiment relates to "...a plurality of approximate expressions which correspond to said plurality of sample data sizes, respectively," as recited in claim 1.

If the first compression rate Q factor of "95" produces 150,000 bytes, an approximate-expression selector may select an approximate expression corresponding to a sample data size (145,435 bytes) nearest the data size (150,000 bytes) of said first compressed data. That is, approximate-expression selector may select expression 8 corresponding to a sample data size of 145,435 bytes. (Page 8, lines 11-16). Thus, Applicants' exemplary embodiment discloses "...an approximate-expression selector for **selecting an approximate expression from said plurality of approximate**

expressions," as recited in claim 1. If a target size of 40,000 bytes is desired, the Q factor may be decreased by one (X-1) from X=94 using the selected approximate-expression at the constants (a=27, b=2769, c=40748, d=832, and e=6543) corresponding to the sample data size of 145,435 bytes until the approximate data size becomes not greater than 40,000 (Steps S27 and S28 in Fig. 2). (Page 8, lines 17-22).

Bracamonte et al. fixes a target compression ratio CR_T and defines an initial scale factor SF_1 . (Col. 3, line 59 to col. 4, line 4 and step 10 of Fig. 1). An image is then compressed using SF_1 and CR_T to calculate CR_1 . If the difference between CR_T and CR_1 is within a threshold value, the image is stored. If the difference is not within a threshold value, a straight line approximation and the equations shown at col. 4, lines 26-44 are used to determine SF_2 . (Col. 4, lines 5-44 and steps 11-13 of Fig. 1). The image is then compressed using SF_2 and CR_T to calculate CR_2 . The process is repeated until the difference between CR_T and CR_i is within a threshold value. The Examiner argues that the equations used for these calculations are Applicants' claimed "approximate expressions." The equations in Bracamonte et al., however, are not selected from a plurality of other equations. Rather, the same equations are used to calculate SF_i and CR_i from the previous calculation of SF_{i-1} and CR_{i-1} . That is, Bracamonte et al. does not select an equation from other equations for each calculation of SF_i and CR_i . Thus, Bracamonte et al. does not disclose "...an approximate-expression selector **for selecting an approximate expression from said plurality of approximate expressions,"** as recited in claim 1. Further, each time the process is repeated, the equations used to calculate SF_i and CR_i are based on the initially compressed data and not on a plurality of data sizes. Thus, , Bracamonte et al. does not disclose "...a plurality of approximate expressions **which correspond to said plurality of sample data sizes,** respectively

Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 2- 6 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-6 are also allowable over the art of record.

Claim 7, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 7 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 8-11

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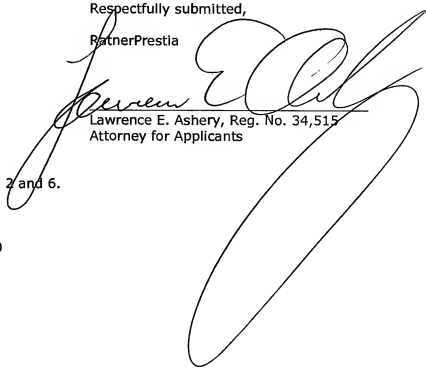
depend from claim 7. Accordingly, claims 8-11 are also allowable over the art of record.

New claims 12-15 have been added. Basis for claims 12 and 14 may be found in the originally filed application, for example, at Fig. 3. Basis for claims 13 and 15 may be found in the originally filed application, for example, at page 10, lines 10-13. No new matter has been added.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Amended Figs. 2 and 6.

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